

Dividing the Spoils at Spa Under Cover of Diplomacy

Measures Veiled in Conference Are Only What Would Have Taken Place in Open in Old Order of Things--Analysis of Coal Victory Won by France Discloses Real Status of Affairs in Europe and the East.

By B. M. TALBOT.

HISTORY will record of Spa, Belgium, that it was the scene of many exciting episodes, social, military and diplomatic, but the annals of this pretty, war stricken watering place will embrace no more significant event than the recent conference held there by the Entente Ministers of State to call the Germans to account for re-fractions of the Versailles peace treaty, which now has become unique among peace treaties because of its lack of fulfillment.

Fate decreed that the first meeting of the Teutons with their conquerors after the actual signing of the treaty should occur in a place which had been the scene of one of the initial German advances in the war. But aside from its sentimental weight this fact had no more significance or influence than if the conference had been held in Paris, Berlin, London or The Hague.

Under Cover of Diplomatic Discussion.

What the press despatches delineated as new decisions and orders by the Allies to enforce the execution of the Versailles treaty were simply addenda to the original document drawn up with the help of President Wilson, and in which his influence prevented the inclusion of the measures now taken. The division of spoils which would have taken place openly and frankly except for the interference of President Wilson, is now taking place under cover of diplomatic discussion which obscures the real status of affairs.

Germany was protected by the treaty of Versailles from giving up territory as a penalty for her crimes in the war. She lost Alsace-Lorraine because it was properly French territory, and she lost the upper Schleswig Zone by plebiscite and may similarly lose Silesia only if the people show by their votes that they prefer to be governed by some other country. Except where the Allies took German colonies, the right of victors to confiscate territory was not exercised. If this doctrine of confiscating territory had prevailed at Versailles there is little doubt that France would have taken the entire Rhine region, which contains immense coal deposits, extending from the southwestern border of the Netherlands to the northwestern border of Switzerland. This would have been doing nothing contrary to the precedent established by Germany in taking the iron ore regions of Alsace-Lorraine after the Franco-Prussian war.

The Rhine district and Alsace-Lorraine are inseparable in an industrial sense. The Rhine Valley constitutes one of the most thickly populated and efficient industrial sections of Europe. It contains huge manufacturing plants of every description situated in the strategic center of a territory abounding in fuel. Southward from Essen on the upper line there are numerous iron works, blast furnaces and steel mills throughout this area and down to the border of Alsace-Lorraine.

For Germany it was only necessary to go a short distance into Alsace-Lorraine to extract the necessary ore to keep these plants on the Rhine supplied with raw materials. The coal and coke were right at hand. The combination made it possible for German industry to grow and prosper beyond the dreams of the promoters themselves.

Trying to Keep France in Shade.

France recovered Alsace-Lorraine, but the Rhine Valley remained German territory, although it is to be policed by allied forces for fifteen years, more or less. Nothing would have been more natural, had the old time Carthaginian ideas of drafting peace treaties held sway at Versailles, than for France to annex this whole region for herself. The world might then have seen France duplicate the feat of Germany in building up her industrial power and becoming a formidable rival of England.

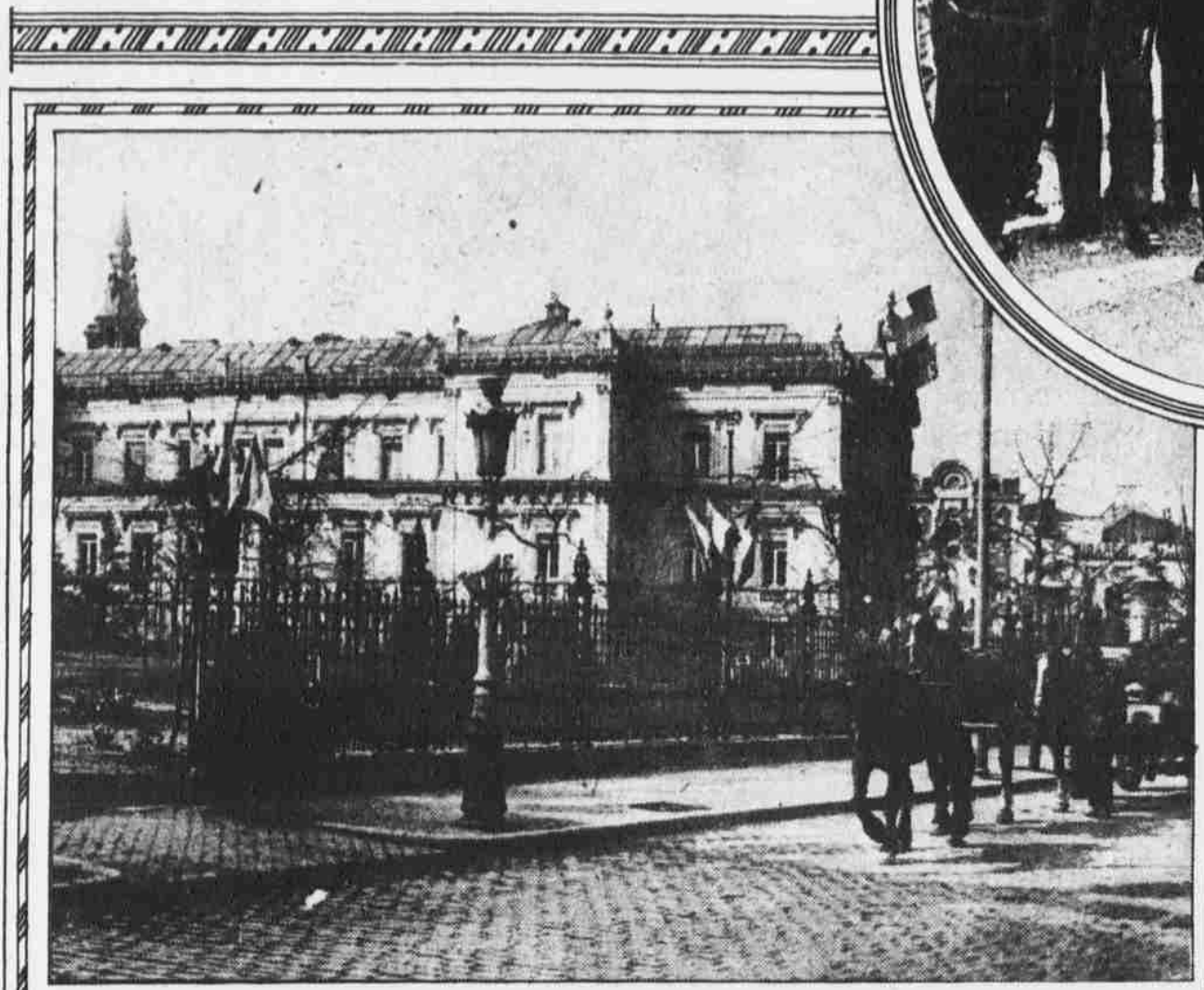
It was not to be. The British Prime Minister, the Right Hon. David Lloyd George, went to Versailles intent on preventing France from taking Germany's place in the sun, and he has not deviated from this purpose for a moment down to the present day. In this he had the consistent, though perhaps unconscious, assistance of President Wilson. The war has left England more secure than ever in her ability to divide Europe against itself and in her own favor, and that is the fascinating pastime Lloyd George has been engaged in since November, 1918.

With no chance of territorial annexation because of the combined opposition of Wilson and Lloyd George, the French Premier, M. Clemenceau, had to deal with great obstacles if he was to obtain an advantage that in other ways might give France something like the benefits that would accrue from actual annexation.

Clemenceau was able to work up an atmosphere of reality for his fear of a future German invasion, and in this way he obtained the concession which provides for policing the Rhine. Very likely he saw that before the end of the fifteen year period the Allies would tire of keeping soldiers on the Rhine and eventually none but French forces would remain there. Ostensible German ownership, but actual French domination, would be little different from actual French ownership. At least the new scheme would do as a substitute for annexation.

Even with this prospect Clemenceau knew well that even French domination would never be permitted by England without a strong protest. It was therefore necessary for Clemenceau to go further and provide more safeguards for his policy. So, despite the implied agreement against punitive indemnities, a maximum penalty of about 160,000,000,000 German marks, or \$40,000,000,000, was the money indemnity provided. This was supposed to be solely under the head of reparations, but it was soon shown that it exceeded the amount of actual damage done by the Germans and was therefore punitive.

When it became evident that such an amount could not be collected the allied statesmen started a series of conferences, which resulted in meetings at London, Paris, San Remo, Boulogne and Brussels. The



WHERE THE SPA CONFERENCE WAS HELD

French Premiership had been transferred to M. Millerand and on him devolved the task of preventing M. Clemenceau's programme from being utterly shattered at the hands of Lloyd George. The task was no easy one. Millerand was face to face with the fact that Germany was in the midst of industrial stagnation, and that even if he had the peace treaty and public sentiment on his side, logical evidence was against him. It needed no proof to show that a modification must be made somehow. Millerand set himself to oppose every move toward scaling down the indemnity unless an offsetting advantage could be gained in some other direction.

Germany's inability to pay was not altogether useless as a weapon in Millerand's hands, for he could use it as a means of obtaining more coal from the Rhine valley. He could face Lloyd George and say: "Either give me the Rhine coal or the indemnity." Rhine coal meant industrial strength for France and added competition against England. Full indemnity to France meant cutting down the amount of indemnity to England, Italy and the others.

In this diplomatic game the French Premier had another valuable argument. It was the Near East question. England had obtained Mesopotamia from the Turks, although the French influence in Syria should

have brought Mesopotamia to France if the English idea of claiming territory next to her colonies had been carried out. However, at the time England had obtained Mesopotamia Clemenceau did not know of its rich oil deposits, and therefore he consented to English control by mandate. But when the oil resources were revealed the French were indignant.

The uprising of the Turkish Nationalists against the terms of the Turkish peace treaty gave France an opportunity to express her indignation and make it count for something. One way or another she contrived to let it be known to London that if France chose to side with the Turkish Nationalists for a revision of the Turkish treaty, the English influence not only in Mesopotamia but in Persia and Southeastern Russia might suffer great damage.

Lloyd George Turns Another Card.

France was thus able to present a still stronger argument to England: "Give us the Rhine region or the majority of its coal and abandon your policy of leniency toward Germany. Otherwise you may lose your possessions in the Near East."

It was a strong argument. But Lloyd George must have been expecting it. At any rate he was prepared. With the deft hand of the experienced player he turned over another card.

On the face of it were the large, red, sinister letters, "RUSSIA."

Up to that time, which was only a few weeks ago, at Brussels it had been a two handed game, with Italy participating only at intervals when Lloyd George needed the support of the Italian Premier against the forceful arguments of the French leader.

The introduction of Russia created a furor. Millerand stood against, for he had not expected Great Britain to desert the cause of a Polish State which was supposed to be the special means the Allies had taken to keep Bolshevism in check. But when Lloyd George deserted Poland by extending the hand of friendship to Russia it became apparent that the Polish State was more of a French protegee, intended to prevent a union of German and Russian interests.

Warning up handily to the task he had set for himself, the British Premier promised to relieve Russia of the war on her southern border with Poland if the Bolsheviks would cease to harass the independent States of Georgia and Azerbaijan, down in the southeastern corner of Russia. Lloyd George had contrived to have the States set up because they encompassed British oil interests at Baku, Batum and Tiflis. They also constituted buffer States between Persia and Russia—Persia being a British protectorate—and a third purpose was to check the prog-

PREMIER MILLERAND OF FRANCE WHO GAINED THE COAL VICTORY AT SPA

ress of Bolshevism toward India. The British, it was apparent, had checkmated Millerand at the same time that they had gained a distinct advantage for themselves.

But Lloyd George had not finished. He turned up another card on which was depicted the name of Greece. He showed Millerand that Greek forces could be relied upon to finish off the Turkish Nationalists and make Mesopotamia safe for British oil wells.

By this time France was fairly well subdued. She had been shorn of the powerful counter argument in the Near East. Lloyd George saw that the propitious moment for the Spa conference with the Germans had arrived, and it was arranged.

Millerand Still Undaunted.

Still undaunted, though seriously handicapped, Millerand kept in the center of his mind the Rhine territory and its indispensable coal supply. The Versailles treaty called for a maximum of 43,000,000 tons a year to be delivered to the Allies by Germany to replace lost production in French mines and to help rebuild industry in Belgium and France.

Full deliveries of the amount stipulated in the treaty were not possible. The figure was scaled down to 24,000,000 tons a year, or 2,000,000 tons a month, and lower than this figure France refused to go. She had behind her the Versailles treaty, which authorized the use of force to compel the coal deliveries, and she served notice on Lloyd George that, do what he might, the coal must be delivered or the Ruhr district would be occupied.

For once Lloyd George had to yield. His own people at home, not realizing as clearly as the Premier the real reason for the French insistence, would not tolerate more leniency toward Germany. Against his own people Lloyd George was helpless. He yielded and the Germans were given the choice of delivering coal or stating their excuses to an allied army.

The future alone will tell whether the scheme will work and thus give France much of the benefit that would have resulted from actual annexation. The money indemnity remains to be fixed, and from previous events it is easy enough to imagine that the skilful manoeuvres of diplomats, bringing into play hidden influences and reactions, may either enhance or annul altogether the value of M. Millerand's doubtful diplomatic victory on the Rhine.

Bolshevism Outdone by Mexico's Constitution

Continued from First Page.

guards by day; where human life was cheaply held and human rights disregarded. It was a system which grew out of the ancient Spanish encomiendas, against which Las Casas fought and men thought him mad because he would champion the rights of an Indian.

Labor Laws Are Progressive.

Under the Constitution of 1917 eight hours is a working day and the maximum limit for night work is seven hours. Night work in factories is forbidden to women and children under sixteen years old; nor may they be employed in commercial establishments after 10 o'clock at night.

"The minimum wage received by a workman shall be that which is considered sufficient, according to the conditions prevailing in the respective regions of the country, to satisfy the normal needs of life of a workman, his education and his lawful pleasures, considering him as the head of a family," it provides. "In all agricultural, commercial, manufacturing or mining enterprises the workman shall have the right to participate in the profits in the manner fixed by Clause 9 of this article."

"(Clause 9. The determination of the minimum wage and of the rate of profit sharing ascribed in Clause 7 shall be made by special commissions to be appointed in each municipality and to be subordinated to the central board of conciliation to be established in each State.)"

"When, owing to special circumstances, it becomes necessary to increase the working hours, these shall be paid as wages for overtime 100 per cent. more than is fixed for regular time. In no case shall the overtime exceed three hours nor continue for more than three consecutive days, and no women of whatever age nor boys under sixteen years of age may engage in overtime work."

"In every agricultural, industrial, mining or other class of work employers are bound to furnish their workmen comfortable and sanitary dwelling places, for which they may charge rents not exceeding one-half of 1 per cent. a month of the assessed value of the properties. Likewise they shall establish schools, dispensaries and other services necessary to the community."

Employers' liability is provided for in Article 123 as follows:

"Employers shall be liable for labor accidents and occupational diseases arising from work. Therefore, employers shall pay the

proper indemnity, according to whether death or merely temporary or permanent disability has ensued."

Whereas under the Constitution of 1857 Gen. Diaz put down with an iron hand, as in Puebla, any strike movements by labor, the Constitution of 1917 recognizes the right of workers to strike and of employers to lock out. Article 123 provides:

"XVI. Workmen and employers shall have the right to unite for the defence of their respective interests by forming syndicates, unions, &c."

"XVII. The law shall recognize the right of workmen and of employers to strike and to lock out."

"XVIII. Strikes shall be lawful when by the employment of peaceful means they shall aim to bring about a balance between the various factors of production and to harmonize the rights of capital and labor. In the case of public services, the workmen shall be obliged to give ten days notice in advance to the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration of the date set for the suspension of work. Strikes shall only be considered unlawful when the majority of the strikers shall resort to acts of violence against persons or property, or in case of war when the strikers belong to establishments and services dependent on the Government."

"XIX. Lockouts shall only be lawful when the excess of production shall render it necessary to shut down in order to maintain prices reasonably above the cost of production, subject to the approval of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration."

"XX. Differences or disputes between capital and labor shall be submitted for settlement to a board of conciliation and arbitration, to consist of an equal number of representatives of the workmen and of the employers and of one representative of the Government."

"XXI. If the employer shall refuse to submit his differences to arbitration or to accept the award rendered by the board, the labor contract shall be considered as terminated, and the employer shall be bound to indemnify the workman by the payment to him of three months wages, in addition to the liability which he may have incurred by reason of the dispute. If the workman rejects the award, the contract will be held to have terminated."

Another radical change from the Constitution of 1857 is contained in that provision of Article 123 to the effect that "all debts contracted by workmen on account of

work up to the date of this Constitution with masters, their subordinates and agents are hereby entirely discharged."

In keeping with the spirit manifested by dropping the preamble of the Constitution of 1857, "In the name of God and by authority of the Mexican people," the Constitution of 1917 strengthens the so-called "reform laws" and provides:

"Religious institutions known as churches, irrespective of creed, shall in no case have legal capacity to acquire, hold or administer real property or loans made on real property. All such real property or loans as may be held at the present time by religious institutions, either on their own behalf or through third parties, shall vest in the nation, and any one shall have the right to denounce property so held. Presumptive proof shall be sufficient to declare the denunciation well founded. Places of public worship are the property of the nation, as represented by the Federal Government, which shall determine which of them shall continue to be devoted to their present purposes. Episcopal residences, rectories, seminaries, orphan asylums or collegiate establishments of religious institutions, convents or any other buildings built or designed for administrative, propagandist or the teaching of the tenets of any religious creed, shall forthwith vest directly in the nation, to be used exclusively for public services of the Federation or of the States within their respective jurisdictions. All places of public worship which shall later be erected shall be the property of the nation."

The Constitution gives exclusive power to the State Legislatures to "determine the maximum number of ministers of religious creeds, according to the needs of each locality." Only a Mexican by birth can be a minister of any religious creed in Mexico, it provides.

Peace Seems Still Far Off.

These are the chief features of the Constitution of 1917, differing from that of 1857. They are the features against which foreign business, foreign investments and the church have protested. They have been the storm centers around which foreigners and the Carranza Government clashed and around which foreign interests and the present and coming Mexican Governments will clash unless an agreement is reached between representatives of these foreign interests and the De la Huerta administration and Gen. Obregon. What these clashes will lead to no one knows, but this is certain,

that they will not lead to a speedy solution of the Mexican problem—to the extinguishing of that "conflagration next door to us"—by peaceful means. Instead, with new revolutions now in the making, with Mexican political "outs" striving to get in and ready to resort to arms to force their power on the nation; with an empty treasury, the problem before Senor de la Huerta and Gen. Obregon is not an easy one. He must be indeed an optimist who can see a happy end to it.

There will be a change in the White House in Washington next year. The policy of the American administration with regard to Mexico will constitute a most important chapter in Mexican history. The conditions which have obtained there for the last eight years cannot continue for another four years. If there ever was a time when Mexicans should cease to plot, should cease to resort to arms against constituted authority, as they themselves constituted and accepted it, this is the time.

The Time for Patriotic Service.

To-day Mexico needs the services of every one of her sons, and she needs them at home, to build constructively, to reform the courts, to enforce the laws, to abide by the laws, to forget old hates, old ambitions, to put away greed for power. Whether it be Obregon or Robles Dominguez who is the next President of Mexico, he needs the help of every Mexican, whether Porfirista, Cientifico, Maderista, Carranzista, Obregonista, Villista or Zapatista.

Mexico has the men possessing the brains and the ability to pull her out of the mire and to put her on her feet squarely and firmly. If Mexicans will but forget the past and get together and work for Mexico instead of for self or party. These Mexican intellectuals have the inherent honesty to do it if they will conscientiously and patriotically try. They can be fair to their own people and to foreigners.

When Mexicans understand this there will be no more fights over constitutional provisions of Executive decrees; there will be no "Mexican question." Instead, there will be peace in Mexico and rich harvests and full granaries; and those spectral mountains, veiled in fleecy clouds through which the sun casts rainbow colors, will give up their great riches of gold and silver and copper, and there will flow from the inexhaustible fields of Tamalipas and Vera Cruz a never ending stream of fuel oil to drive cargo carrying ships through the seven seas and to generate power for countless industries at home and in foreign lands.

Mme. Rasch Finds Vienna Theatre Mad

Danseuse Back From Europe Tells of War Profiteers' Revelry in Austria's Stricken Capital.

VIENNA, the once gay capital of Austria and one of the greatest music and art centres in all Europe, is no more the same, is the contention of Albertina Rasch, the young Polish dancer, who has just returned from Europe after a two months stay. As Mme. Rasch has lived and danced in this country for several years, from opera ballet to vaudeville, she needs no introduction to American theatregoers. Prior to sailing for Europe she appeared at the Capitol Theatre, where she delighted thousands of dance lovers.

"I spent but a few days in Vienna," said Mme. Rasch in telling of her trip. "I went there to pay my respects to my old dancing teacher and see if there was anything I could do to add to his comfort. In Paris I was told that conditions were in a sad plight and I was advised not to take the journey; but then I had lived and studied in Vienna, so I could not resist the temptation, be it ever so inconvenient. Through my manager, M. de Valsey, and some influential friends in the French Government, I was able to secure a berth on the Orient Express, so I travelled without difficulty."

Vienna's Plight.

"I found the Vienna of to-day just what it had been described to me. It was not the once gay city I had known it before the war. The streets were filled with hungry and half fed people and the city looked neglected and dirty. Nearly every one seemed despondent except a few profiteers who had made millions out of the war. These lived and dressed like royalty, and from what I could see had formed an aristocracy of their own. In living upon what little fat there was left in the land they had skinned the poor out of the real necessities of life, and this was evident everywhere. Had it not been for the food sent by the United States, Holland and Sweden famine would have reigned everywhere."

"I want to tell you the people are certainly grateful to this country. They now understand the generous hearts you have. They do not look upon you as unfriendly. It was the food and medicines sent that practically saved the people. Food was scarce a few months ago, but there is some relief now. The summer crops have been good, but food is still very high. The profiteer still holds a strong hand and prices are such the poorer classes are unable to pay. This causes a great deal of unrest and makes it hard to establish a favorable government. The new ruling class know nothing about forming a government, and never will."

"Yes, I visited many of the theatres, and was surprised to find them crowded. The plays are by no means up to the standard, but they seem to suit the public, and that is all the managers care about. I visited the Imperial Opera House on several occasions. Opera seems to stimulate the people. But the audiences were not the same as one would expect to see in such a cultured city. The boxes were filled with the most ordinary class one could imagine. It looked more like a picnic than anything else. Patrons, if they can be called such, brought their lunches, and it was not an uncommon sight to see them crash boiled eggs on the brass railings and then toss the shells on those below. During the best arias these people talked and rattled papers, much to the annoyance of everybody. But such is the new society."

Still Rich in Art.

Mme. Rasch then went on to state that Vienna was still rich in art treasures. In many of the first class shops one could purchase good clothes, boots and shoes. The people have not forgotten how to dress, but the lack of money, work and food has caused the majority to go about poorly clad.

Mme. Rasch went to Paris last May as the guest of friends who invited her to witness the premier of "Pulcinella," which was given at the Paris Opera May 14. In the cast were Leonide Massine, Thomas Karasavina, Lubor Tchernichev and others well known here in the Russian ballet. During her stay in the French metropolis she purchased several new gowns to be worn this season during her American tour under the direction of Martin Beck. She also visited the races and attended the Grand Prix. From Paris she went to London, where she appeared at a benefit held at Bournemouth with the Municipal Orchestra, under the direction of Daniel Godfrey.

There she made such a pronounced success that she was offered several contracts to tour England and the British Isles. These she could not accept. Her manager said he had scoured Europe for novelties but was unable to find anything suitable for the American public. Mme. Rasch said she was glad to get back. Her trip abroad lasted but two months, but it seemed a long time, especially when a big season stands in the way.

Aluminum Brass

EXPERIMENTS aimed at developing the resistance of brass to the action of sea water, with a view to its employment for constructing submarines in France, have, it is reported, shown some remarkable results from the addition of aluminum. The internal structure of the alloy is strikingly changed by a very small percentage of aluminum, and the color changes are surprising. From half of 1 per cent. up to 5 per cent. of aluminum gives the brass a deep golden color. If the quantity of aluminum is increased beyond 5 per cent. a superb rose color results, which reaches its maximum when the aluminum amounts to 7 per cent. With 10 per cent. of aluminum the color turns to a silvery white.